

Communists call for release of Barghouti

THE Communist Party called at the weekend for the release from Israeli gaols of all Palestinian political prisoners, including Marwan Barghouti.

On behalf of the executive committee, Scottish secretary John Foster expressed the party's solidarity with the Palestinian people in the face of the tragic death of President Arafat.

And he reaffirmed its commitment to support the struggle for a full and sovereign Palestinian state in line with UN resolutions and condemned the rearrest of

Mordechai Vanunu, who first exposed Israeli nuclear plans.

Warning of the grave dangers stemming from the British backing for the Bush agenda for global domination, Mr Foster reaffirmed backing for the TUC call for the speedy removal of British troops from Iraq and called for solidarity with all political and social forces in Iraq, including the IFTU, campaigning for an end to the economic and military occupation of their country.

Reviewing the party's industrial

work, Kevin Halpin laid out a wide-ranging series of policy initiatives to take the labour and trade union movement forward into 2005.

"The Warwick policy accord reached between the Labour Party and trade unions is limited and fragmentary. While individual elements may be useful, it does not represent the end objective of the trade unions.

"It would be fatal for the Labour movement to cease campaigning for a repeal of the anti trade union laws, for re-

storing the link between pensions and earnings and the whole progressive agenda," he said.

Drawing attention to dangerously authoritarian trends deriving from the government's adoption of the US security agenda, the party condemned Blunkett's Police Bill. And, on social policy, the party agreed to develop policy on the need for a secular and fully comprehensive education system and on travellers rights.